

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-28 were filed in the present application. These claims were subjected to a restriction requirement. As a result of the election, below, Claims 1-11 and 28 will be considered, and Claims 12-20 and 21-27 are withdrawn from consideration as drawn to a non-elected invention. Therefore, Claims 1-28 remain pending in this application, however, only Claims 1-11 and 28 are currently under consideration. Claim 1 was amended to delete a typographical error.

Restriction Requirement

The Office has required restriction to one of the following groups of claims:

Group I: Claims 1-11 and 28, drawn to a tampon and a method of using the tampon;
and

Group II: Claims 12-20 and 21-27, drawn to a method of forming a tampon and an
apparatus for making a tampon.

The Office Action alleges that the inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1, as the technical feature linking the claims, in its opinion, does not provide a contribution over the prior art.

Applicants hereby elect Group I, with traverse and respectfully requests reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement.

Applicants submit that the claims were considered to have unity during the international phase of the present application, and submit that it is improper to treat the claims differently in the national phase. Restriction is improper, and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is hereby respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the foregoing presents a full and complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Applicants look forward to an early notice of allowance for this application.

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